

“Date”

Ms. Karen Maxwell
Civil Service Board Secretary
Bossier City Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Board
Post Office Box 5337
Bossier City, Louisiana 71171-5337

RE: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-536

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its September 3, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion relative to whether Lou Chandler can continue to serve on the Bossier City Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Board after his brother, Tommy Chandler was sworn in as Mayor of Bossier City on July 1, 2021 and whether Lou Chandler must recuse himself from appeals involving actions taken by Tommy Chandler.

FACTS PROVIDED

You stated that in 2014 the Mayor of Bossier City appointed Lou Chandler to serve as a member of the Bossier City Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Board (“BCCSB”) and that his current term is set to expire on March 12, 2023. You stated that Lou Chandler receives no compensation for his service on the BCCSB. You stated that Lou Chandler’s brother, Tommy Chandler was recently elected Mayor of Bossier City and was sworn in on July 1, 2021. You stated that Tommy Chandler reassigned Chief of Police, Shane McWilliams, resulting in a demotion to Sergeant position, and Chief McWilliams has appealed the reassignment to the BCCSB.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) states that no public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest.

La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a) prohibits a public servant, or member of such a public servant’s immediate family, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

La. R.S. 42:1102(13) defines “immediate family” as the term relates to a public servant to mean his children, the spouses of his children, his brothers and their spouses, his sisters and their spouses, his parents, his spouse, and the parents of his spouse.

La. R.S. 42:1102(23) defines “transaction with a governmental entity” to mean any proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, case, or other

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such particular matter which the public servant or former public servant of the governmental entity in question knows or should know: (a) is, or will be, the subject of action by the governmental entity; (b) is one to which the governmental entity is or will be a party; or (c) is one in which the governmental entity has a direct interest.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) would not prohibit Lou Chandler from continuing to serve as a member of the BCCSB until the conclusion of his term on March 12, 2023 since his brother, Tommy Chandler did not appoint him to the BCCSB. However, once Lou Chandler’s term has expired, he would not be able to be reappointed by his brother acting in his capacity as Mayor of Bossier City, since that transaction would violate Section 1113A(1)(a) of the Ethics Code.

The Board further instructed me to inform you that Lou Chandler would not have to recuse himself relative to any appeal taken by Chief of Police, Shane McWilliams following his demotion by Tommy Chandler, since Lou Chandler’s participation on the BCCSB would not involve a substantial economic interest of Tommy Chandler.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Gregory L. Thibodeaux
For the Board